

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Blatantly partisan "documentaries" are an example of a company's ability to skew the "news". Everyone expects political ads to be partisan but a program such as "Stolen Honor" can be deceiving. I would be equally against stations being forced to show Fahrenheit 9/11.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we risk special interest messages masquerading as public information. That's not what we need for our democracy. This is exactly the kind of one-sidedness I was concerned about when I first voiced my opinion about media consolidation to the FCC and now here it is... no longer a fear but a reality.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve all the people who are affected. (the public!!) Thank you.